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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

UPDATE: TEN APPROVED FOR CHARTERS

The District of Columbia Public Charter School Board is pleased to announce completion of the second and final stage of its 1997-98 application review process. On March 5, 1998, the Board approved seven applications to establish public charter schools in the District of Columbia. The total number of applications approved by the Board during its first competition for charters to establish public charter schools is ten, including the three applications approved in November 1997. The new public charter schools will serve more than 3,000 learners next year.

Josephine C. Baker, Chairperson of the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board, says, "After a tough competition, the Board has now approved a total of ten schools for charters. As a result, more than 3,000 learners of all ages in the District of Columbia will be offered an exciting range of new educational opportunities when school opens next fall. All of us are pleased about the role these schools can play in the effort to improve public education in the nation's capital".

- 1. **The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, DC** will provide a residential, coed learning environment for academic underperformers, grades 7-12, whose residential settings are disruptive to their education and who desire to attend a boarding school. The school's program is grounded in the philosophy that all children deserve a high quality education and that all students will learn. To that end, the SEED Public Charter School of Washington, DC will offer an academic and residential setting that is conducive to healthy student development, a strong remedial program to bring students up to their current grade level, a high school curriculum and program that is similar to that found in some of the best college preparatory schools in the nation. The school will serve 40 seventh grade students during the first year and will add a new class of seventh graders each year until the school encompasses grades 7 through 12.

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Mid School - II

- 2. **Washington Mathematics Science Technology Public Charter High School** represents the conversion of an existing school-within-a-school to public charter school status. The school's mission is to provide college-bound students in grades 9-12 a classic liberal education with an emphasis on mathematics and science. Students will use technology as a research and learning tool to enhance development of analytical reasoning. The school intends to use the Modern Red Schoolhouse academic standards as the

foundation for curriculum in eight core subjects and will offer an extended school day and longer school year, with wrap-around study enrichment programs. Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School will serve 175 students in grades 9 through 12 during its first year of operation and over time reach its full capacity of 420 students.

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3. **Hospitality Public Charter High School** plans to begin operation in school year 1999-2000. The school's purpose is to strengthen and expand the work force available to the hospitality industry of the nation's capital. The school will offer students with potential for higher education a rigorous four year academic program with strong preparation for careers in the fastest growing industry in the metropolitan Washington area. The program will include paid internships, industry related technology systems training, student learning projects, and mentors. The Hospitality Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. will begin enrollment in fall of 1999 with a freshman and sophomore class of 40 students each, building to the ultimate goal of serving 150 students by the year 20002.

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4. **Associates for Renewal in Education, Inc. Public Charter School** will provide an educational program for 100 students from age 14 to 22 who are involved in the juvenile justice system. Since students' lives outside of school affect their ability to learn, teachers in this new public charter school will help them to avoid risky behaviors. The goal is to enable these young people to find responsible ways to meet their needs so they can improve their self-confidence, behave appropriately, develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, and get a high school diploma. Teachers in the school will strive to create a school in which students feel cared about, are encouraged to voice their opinions and make choices about their education, have fun learning and feel free to move at their own pace. Staff also will emphasize to students that completing their education is necessary to their ability to survive in the world outside of school.

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5. **The Robert Louis Johnson Arts and Technology Academy** was conceived of by a group of parents and community members in response to the closing of the Richardson Elementary School in northeast Washington, DC. Beginning in September 1998, this new public charter school will enroll 540 students in grades pre-K through 5, and will expand to include grade six in the

second year of operation. The design of the school's educational program has two key components: strong academics and a performing/communicative arts concentration. Students will develop strong skills in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, history, foreign language, and technology. A founding partnership has been developed with Advantage Schools, Inc., a Massachusetts based educational management firm that will manage the Academy and administer its education program.

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7 6. **The School for Arts in Learning** will be an alternative learning community for children with special needs, particularly children with physical or learning disabilities. The school's program will emphasize education in and through the arts to stimulate intellectual, emotional, physical, and social development. The arts will be an educational tool through which the academic curriculum is taught, promoting thinking, creating, and evaluating. Opening in September 1998, the school will serve 72 students in kindergarten through second grade. One grade per year will be added until the school serves 144 students in grades K through five.

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2 High 34 7. **Cesar Chavez Public Policy Charter High School** will challenge students with a rigorous curriculum that fosters citizenship and prepares them to excel in college and life. Public policy themes will guide instruction and students will have direct experiences with organizations working in the public interest. The school will use the Modern Red Schoolhouse model and offer advanced placement courses in English, history, and U.S. Government. Plans are to have the school open until 7:00 PM each evening and to offer classes on Sundays. In its first year of operation, Cesar Chavez Public Policy Charter High School will serve 60 ninth grade students. Each year a grade level will be added serving 60 students until the school reaches its full capacity of 240 students in grades 9 through 12.

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The following three schools were approved in November 1997 for charters by the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board.

4 8. **Maya Angelou Public Charter School**, an outgrowth of Project Soar/Roma Pizzeria, is a hands-on job training and tutoring program for court involved youth. In its first year, the new public charter school will serve approximately 50 students in grades 9 through 11. The school's special focus is on

integrating the world of work into the traditional academic setting by having students take responsibility for a restaurant, and engaging in other workplace experiences. Many students are encouraged to go on to college or other advanced studies, and all students are expected to take full responsibility for their own behavior. Groups of 3-5 students work closely with an advisor and support one another's progress. The school's organization and culture reflect a commitment to each student's learning and growth during their time in the school and afterward.

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9. **Edison-Friendship Public Charter School** is a partnership between Friendship House Association, Inc. and The Edison Project, and educational management firm. The new public charter school will open in August 1998 to serve approximately 1,308 children in Pre-School through grade 5. Eventually the school will serve 1,902 students through grade 12. Edison-Friendship Public Charter School will be divided into schools within a school or academies. The school will have longer days and be organized around small academies where teachers stay with the same children for several years. Technology will play an important role; families of students in the third grade and higher will each receive a home computer. The school will have a strong commitment to parents and families and will be governed by a Board of Trustees that will include parents of children attending the school.

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10. **The Rosario International Public Charter School** builds on a 26-year history of the former Rosario School. The new public charter school will help the District of Columbia's high school drop-out and at risk youth who are limited English proficient to gain literacy, English language skills, and a high school equivalent diploma. The school also will provide literacy, citizenship, ESL and GED training to the city's adult immigrants and refugees who need to improve their skills to better participate in the workforce and in their community. Rosario International Public Charter School will serve approximately 890 part-time students, ages 16 to 60 in its first year of operation. The school will reach its full capacity of almost 2000 students in five years.

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